

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Details about Russian Transport Columns

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1. Column Headquarters

There are at present five Russian transport columns in the Russian Zone of Germany located as follows:

- 2 & 8 - At Frankfurt/Oder, based at the shunting yard. These columns have been stationed here for at least a year.
- 4 & 5 - At Frankfurt/Oder, based at the passenger station. Column 4 arrived at Frankfurt/Oder after April 1950; column 5 arrived shortly after Christmas 1950. Column 5 formerly was column 7 at Lichtenberg.
- A fifth column, possibly 12 or 13, is based at Cottbus. It is believed that this column was assembled towards the end of 1950 and that its personnel and engines were drawn from other columns which were disbanded at the time (much of its personnel, however, had served with column 1 at Frankfurt/Oder).

2. Reserves of Brigade Engines

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a. At Frankfurt/Oder

1)

Brigade engines in Frankfurt/Oder the Brigades would frequently be taking over new engines.

- 2) These engines are almost equally divided between the shunting yard and the passenger station and are maintained by columns 2 and 8, and 4 and 5 respectively.\*

- b. A Brigade employee who was recently transferred from Cottbus remarked to a member of his new Brigade that there were some 150 Brigade engines parked in the stations of Cottbus and Guben during January 1951; the majority of these engines were "Bauart 52" (construction type) but there were also some "Bauart 50" engines among them.

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- c. At Boskow\*\*a station between Frankfurt/Oder and Küstrin. There were approximately 50 Brigade engines parked in this station during February 1951. Some effort had been made to protect these engines from the weather; for example, their air pumps were completely covered with wooden boxes; their piston connecting rods had been removed and laid on the engine foot plates and their bearings on the wheels covered with wooden casing; the funnels were covered with metal plates to protect the boilers from the weather. It would take between 5 and 6 hours for a Brigade crew to get one such engine ready for use.

3. General Information

- a. At an official meeting on 22 February 1951 at Frankfurt/Oder it was announced that two more columns would be formed in the future, one to be stationed at Dresden and the second at Berlin-Lichtenberg.
- b. The columns are making limited use of "Bauart 50" engines.
- c. Column employees have recently been asked if they would like to volunteer for similar work in either Rumania or Czechoslovakia and have been offered increased wages as an incentive.

\* Comment: [ ] each of the four columns stationed at Frankfurt/Oder consists of between 26 and 28 Brigades and thus a maximum of some 110 Brigade engines are usually in use. These engines are frequently changed in order to keep all 280 engines in running order.

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\*\* Comment: We have not been able to locate this place on available reference maps.

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